

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 EUR-12 SAM-01

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FM AMEMASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4370

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

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DACCA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO RABAT SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL OFFICIAL ISRAEL REACTION TO RABAT SUMMIT
IS MAINLY ONE OF "WAIT AND SEE". PRESS EDITORIALS ARE UNIFORMLY
PESSIMISTIC RE EFFECTS OF SUMMIT ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. CABINET
SCHEDEDULED TO DISCUSS SUMMIT NOV 1. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS STUDIOUSLY NOT RPT NOT YET REACTED
TO RESULTS OF RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE. PRESS QUOTES PM RABIN
AS TELLING MEETING OF ALIGNMENT FACTION MKS OCT 29 "THE WINDS THAT
ARE BLOWING FROM RABAT MAKE IT NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE A
THOROUGH AND PAINSTAKING EXAMINATION RATHER THAN TO SHOOT FROM
THE HIP; THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO STUDY THE SUBJECT BEFORE
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BRINGING IT BEFORE THE KNESSET". IN SIMILAR VEIN, GOI PRESS

OFFICE RELEASED TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT BY FONMINISTRY
SPOKESMAN WHICH STATED, "THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE
ON ITS REACTION AFTER STUDYING THE FINAL STATEMENT OF THE ARAB SUMMIT
MEETING IN RABAT." FONMIN SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO REITERATE GOI
CONDEMNATION OF UNGA RECOGNITION OF PLO.

3. EDITORIALS IN DAILY PRESS OCT 30 ARE UNIFROMLY PESSIMISTIC
IN INITIAL ASSESSMENTS OF EFFECT OF RABAT ON COURSE OF MIDDLE EAST
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. TYPICAL EVALUATION IS THAT OF HAARETZ,
WHICH STATES BEGIN QUOTE RABAT'S RESOLUTIONS STILL LEAVE A
BARE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FEDERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN A
PLO-RULED WEST BANK AND JORDAN, BUT ON THE WHOLE MAY BE
READ AS SENTENCING THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM TO DISMEMBERMENT.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONFERENCE HAS PROCEEDED WITH OPEN
EYES TO BAR ALL PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS IN THE SECOND GENEVA STAGE.
DOING SO MEANS PREPARING FOR A MILITARY SOLUTION...ISRAEL WILL
CONTINUE TO BE OPEN TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, BUT ASKING HER TO
ACCEPT THE PLO AS HER EASTERN NEIGHBOR MEANS CONFRONTING HER
WITH THE NEAR-CERTAINTY OF FURTHER ARMED CONFLICTS. ISRAEL DOES
NOT WANT TO RULE A MILLION ARABS, BUT TO HAVE THEM JUST
ACROSS THE BORDER UNDER PLO RULE IS NO ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE.
END QUOTE. RABIN CONTRIBUTED TO PESSIMISM BY SAYING TO
MK'S, "THE DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD MAY WELL BRING CHANGES THAT
ARE NOT NECESSARILY FAVORABLE".

4. SEVERAL WRITERS ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO WASHINGTON
REACTION TO RABAT, IN PARTICULAR TO POSSIBLE EFFECT ON ANTICIPATED
EARLY VISIT BY SECRETARY. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER, FROM
WASHINGTON) CITES AMERICAN SOURCES AS SAYING THE ARABS MAY
HAVE REACHED SECRET ACCORDS AND THE US WOULD HAVE TO WAIT
UNTIL ALL FACTS ARE ASSEMBLED. BLITZER ALSO STATES "IT IS
GENERALLY ASSUMED HERE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL NOT CANCEL
HIS VISIT TO THE AREA NEXT MONTH." HAARETZ LEAD STORY (GOLAN),
HOWEVER, SAYS, "GOVERNMENT CIRCLES EVEN THINK DR KISSINGER
MAY POSTPONE HIS VISIT AND PREFER TO HAVE TALKS IN DEPTH WITH
ISRAEL AND THE ARABS BEFORE COMING TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SINCE
HIS PREVIOUS SCENARIO HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN OVERTAKEN
BY EVENTS."

5. PRESS ALSO IS SPECULATING, WITH THUS FAR MIXED RESULTS, ON
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POSSIBLE SHIFT IN US ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO. YEDIOT (GUNEY) BELIEVES
THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO
NEGOTIATE WITH ITS REAL OPPONENTS (PLO) WILL GROW. HE ADDS
THAT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL TELL ISRAEL TO AT
LEAST CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF CONTACTS WITH PLO. DAVAR
EDITORIAL, ON OTHER HAND, AGREES THAT THIS MAY BE ARAB HOPE BUT
FINDS IT UNREASONABLE PROSPECT AT THE MOMENT.

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